

Look Who's TALKING

2007 Speech-Language Pathology

Alumni Association Newsletter University of Toronto



50th

Birthday Bash!!!



The Speech-Language Pathology Department is currently planning a celebration of its 50th Anniversary on May 29 and 30, 2008, and the friends you've made through your association with the Department — classmates and faculty — look forward to seeing YOU there!! But first, join us for a look back at the history of your Department over the past 50 years....



REMEMBERING OUR PAST AND CELEBRATING OUR FUTURE!

By Carla J. Johnson, Ph.D. Based on information compiled by Professor Jean F. Walker, Former Chair

In 1958, the University of Toronto (U of T) established a post-graduate diploma program in speech-language pathology (SLP), thanks to the dedication and hard work of a small group of pioneers in our profession. These pioneers received support and encouragement from several basic and clinical scientists in the Faculty of Medicine at U of T.

The initial years were filled with challenges. The program was small, with only seven students enrolled in the first class. The profession was new and not well known, either within or outside the university. Faculty members were practicing clinicians who selflessly gave extra time and effort to teach and mentor the first students, both in the classroom and in the clinic. Despite these humble beginnings, the program continued to grow and thrive. Over the years, a total of 203 graduates completed the diploma program at U of T.

A major step occurred in 1978 when the SLP department began to offer a professional Master's degree in the discipline. Faculty, students, and practicing professionals had planned and lobbied extensively for a full eight years in order to bring the new Master's program into existence. Sixteen students graduated in 1980, earning the first Master of Health Science (M.H.Sc.) degrees from the department. In recent years, U of T SLP has increased its enrollment in the M.H.Sc. program to its cur-

rent level of 40 students per year. U of T graduates continue to expand and replenish the ranks of practicing professionals in our field throughout Canada and beyond.

In 1995 and 1996, U of T accepted its first students into two new research degree programs, the Master of Science (M.Sc.) and Doctor of Philosophy (Ph.D.) programs, respectively. Since then, six have graduated from the M.Sc. program and nine from the Ph.D. program. Our Ph.D. graduates are currently pursuing their wide-ranging research interests in universities and research institutes across North America. Meanwhile, sixteen current students are completing their studies in these programs, with the intent of contributing to the scientific basis for the practice of speech-language pathology.

The Department of Speech-Language Pathology at U of T is planning a celebration of its 50th anniversary for May of 2008. We are interested in hearing from former students and faculty of the department. If you have not been receiving our annual SLP alumni newsletter in

recent years, please submit your name, contact information, and year of graduation to us by e-mail at slp.rsvp@utoronto.ca or by fax at (416) 978-1596. We'd love to keep you up-to-date on departmental activities and plans for the future!

HISTORY PROJECT NEEDS YOUR HELP!

The 50th Anniversary History Committee is gathering information about the contributions of SLP Alumni. We welcome any documentation, anecdotes, photos, or memories!

Also, if you have minutes of meetings, newsletters, announcements or reports of events, information about the role of the College of Electors, or establishment of awards, please send this information to the Department at slp.rsvp@utoronto.ca using the subject line: *History Project*.

THANK YOU!

And now for a sneak-peek at the 50th Anniversary Events planned to date...

THURSDAY, MAY 29, 2008

The **50th Anniversary Gala Dinner** will take place at the Metropolitan Hotel in downtown Toronto. Tickets for this event are \$85.00 per person (including an appetizer, main meal, dessert, wine, and coffee/tea). Our exciting program includes a keynote address by the Honourable Mr. Bob Rae, a special announcement by Mr. George Shields benefiting students in Speech-Language Pathology, welcome toasts by honoured guests and alumni, and the unveiling of the Department's 50 year history. The evening will also feature an extensive silent auction hosted by the SLP Alumni Association.

FRIDAY, MAY 30, 2008

The **J. F. Walker 50th Anniversary Symposium** will be held in the Auditorium at 155 College St. starting at 9:00 a.m. This free symposium will showcase research posters by faculty and students and will feature innovative presentations by visionary scientists in SLP and related disciplines. It will be followed by a Wine and Cheese Social that will toast the successes of 50 years educating leaders in SLP. Speakers continue to be confirmed, but will include: Dr. Rupal Patel, first graduate of our PhD program, Assistant Professor, Northeastern University, who investigates the analysis of spoken communication and the development of novel human-machine interfaces, and Dr. Michael Iwama, Associate Professor, University of Toronto, who is known internationally for his work on culturally relevant clinical practice in health care.

We sincerely hope you will plan to join the classmates, colleagues, faculty and departmental staff who have played a role in nurturing your career for this exciting two-day reunion and celebration!!!

To register your interest in either event, please RSVP to slp.rsvp@utoronto.ca.

TIME FOR CATCHING UP! By Farhia Jabaney

I never imagined myself as an expatriate, but that's what I became in 2005 when I moved to the Middle East. In August of that year, I left my comfortable job of 8 years as the Student Affairs Assistant for the SLP Department to pursue a career in Abu Dhabi, UAE.

Although leaving my familiar lifestyle, friends and work was extremely stressful and sad, a part of me was filled with anticipation & excitement. The College staff in Abu Dhabi received my family in grand style from our arrival at the airport until we were settled into our apartment. The only drawback was the heat and humidity that we encountered. It was a sizzling 50-60 degrees Centigrade during the day, and many of the citizens have a siesta at midday. My husband, Adnan, and I found out about the siestas when we went to explore at the mall at 2:00 p.m one afternoon and found all the shops & restaurants closed!

I'm now employed at an all women's college in Abu Dhabi. The women's college is part of a consortium of 14 campuses offering 75 degrees ranging from diploma to degree level. The college is fairly new and was founded in 1988. There are a number of campuses for both sexes, and they all operate to educate the local population (officially known as Emiratis but often referred to as "locals"). Admittance to the colleges is open only to locals and there are no fees or incidentals for the students. My job entails coordination of course timetables & faculty timetables, and with over 100 different sections, it was a bit daunting at first. I'm also coordinating all exams for the college,



Farhia at the College Reception desk in Abu Dhabi, UAE

which involve system-wide and college based assessments. Fortunately, everyone in my department has been very supportive despite my numerous questions! The locals are extremely friendly and generous to foreigners. The famous Middle Eastern hospitality is very much

alive and evident in Abu Dhabi.

Abu Dhabi is about the size of Oshawa and getting around the city is relatively easy with cabs available at every corner. The neighbouring Emirates are also close enough for a weekend drive to tour or go shopping. So far, we've visited four of the Emirates and are hoping to complete our tour of all seven by the end of this year. The best part of making the move to Abu Dhabi is being close to my family. In the summer I went for a two-month vacation to Kenya to visit my mom and to attend my sister's wedding. It was a joyful time since I saw family members that I hadn't seen for more than a decade. I also had the opportunity to visit the Nairobi National Game Park, the Snake Park, the Giraffe Center and a few other sites as well. All in all, it was a very happy time for Adnan, the girls and myself.

I frequently think of the many friends I left at 500 University Avenue, particularly those in the SLP Department. The kindness, caring and collegiality that was prevalent in SLP is something that I will always remember and cherish. I was fortunate to have worked with Luigi, who always inspired me to do better, with Luc, who always had time despite his busy schedule, and with Tina, Mark & Kristina who were always there for me, and with the faculty who treated me with the utmost respect & kindness. But mostly I was fortunate to have met and known all the SLP students who were each uniquely remarkable in their dedication to their profession. "Maasalaama & Shukran" to you all for giving me nothing but wonderful memories!

Love and greetings from Farhia
Send mail to: fjabaney@bct.ac.ae

ALUMNI EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

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AUTISM INTERVENTION SERVICES IN *NEW BRUNSWICK* By Nicole Jenkins, OT5

When applying to the graduate program at the University of Toronto, I only dreamt of ending up in a job as challenging and as rewarding as the one I currently have.

My name is Nicole Jenkins (nee Rioux) and I am a graduate of the class of 2005. Even though I do not regret one minute of my time in Toronto, I was happy to leave the "big city" to head back to the smaller city where I had my roots. I moved back to my home of Fredericton for the completion of my final practicum in May 2005, and have happily settled down here. After a short period working within the schools as a Speech-Language Pathologist for the Extra-Mural Program, I moved on to the job that I have now as a Clinical Supervisor for a government funded agency servicing preschoolers with autism. It is truly the career I thought Speech-Language Pathology could offer me and one that I knew I could be happy with over the long term. Accepting the position was a bit of a risk as the agency model for servicing this population is new in the province. I ultimately decided to jump in with both feet in February 2006, and haven't looked back yet ... not even for a second.

As a full-time Clinical Supervisor, I am responsible for a caseload of 12-14 preschoolers who have a diagnosis of autism. My main responsibilities include overseeing, monitoring, and evaluating each child's Applied Behavioural Analysis (ABA) program as well as providing ongoing evaluations, training, and supervision of the Autism Support Workers (ASWs) who work directly and intensively with my clients. I work closely with a multi-disciplinary team and the child's family to develop a comprehensive "global" program individualized to the needs of each particular child.

Applied Behavior Analysis (ABA) is the intervention strategy that Autism Intervention Services has adopted. Behavior analytic techniques, which focus on breaking down any behaviour/task into small, measurable units, are proven to be effective in teaching children with autism. This is done very systematically and data is kept on all programs in order to have a record of progress (or, sometimes, the lack thereof). The systematic data enables the Clinical Supervisors to review programming and make necessary changes.

In New Brunswick, upon receiving a diagnosis of autism, a child is eligible for 20 hours per week of research-based early intervention services pro-



Nicole Jenkins (right) and a client enjoy a hug!

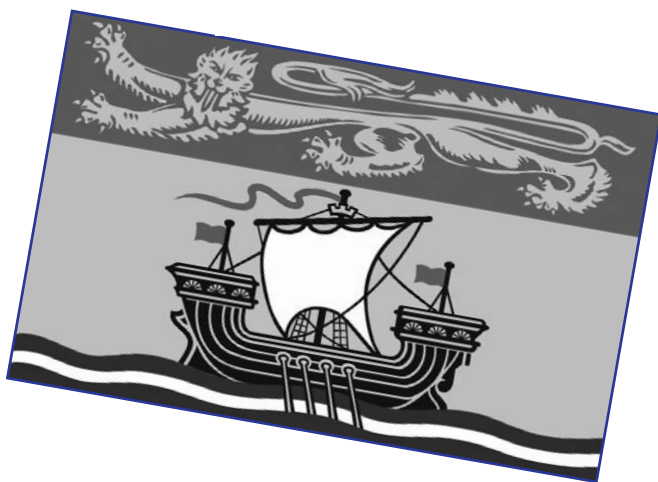
vided by one of the seven agencies in the province. Within our agency, "Autism Intervention Services," the child is assigned to a Clinical Supervisor and is given at least one (more often two) Autism Support Worker(s). Service typically commences within two months from our initial receipt of the referral information. We follow the child from diagnosis until the end of September of the year they enter school (when they are five years old). This allows us to work with the school to help the child with the transition.

We offer services in both English and French and currently have over 50 clients on our caseload. Our agency employs over 35 Autism Support Workers and has five Clinical Supervisors (three SLPs, one Occupational Therapist, and one Teacher) and one Senior Therapist. We are receiving new referrals all the time, and our company is constantly growing. This is exciting for me as I have been a part of it since the beginning.

To be certified to work as a Clinical Supervisor in New Brunswick you must complete the Autism Intervention Training Program through the University of New Brunswick's College of Extended Learning. Therefore, I have already gone back to school to complete this certificate program. The training is open only to applicants who are licensed within health professions (such as Psychology, Speech-Language Pathology, or Occupational Therapy), and who have a Master's degree either within one of those health professions or in Education with a specialization in children with exceptionalities. The program takes approximately one year to complete, and includes core theory sessions, advanced on-line discussion groups, core and advanced practicums, and core and advanced professional development workshops. This has pushed me to learn theory, and provided me with the opportunity to further develop and refine practical skills and to review and evaluate current research in the field.

Since last February I have had the incredible opportunity of learning from some amazingly knowledgeable professionals, of working with some very talented and creative Autism Support Workers, and have witnessed some life-changing advances in some of these children. I am honored and proud to be working for Autism Intervention Services. When I think of my job, I am reminded of the idea that we aren't challenged to learn if we remain in our comfort zone. Well, I can honestly say that in this past year, I have consistently remained out of my comfort zone. I look forward to what the future has in store for me at Autism Intervention Services.

Thank you for the opportunity to share my story!



Is there anything you would like to see written about, or an experience or thought you wish to share with other alumni? We welcome your input into your newsletter, alums! Contact the editor, with an article or with an idea for one, at bennej@stjoe.on.ca.

YEAR ONE

By Joy Hanna, OT8

The class of '08 hails from across Canada and around the world, with students from as far away as India, South Africa, and Ireland, and our educational backgrounds include studies in Biology, Kinesiology, Music, Dance, Women's Studies, and everything in between. Yet, in the midst of our diversity we share a number of things in common.

For one, in the rare moments of free time we find between figuring out where on earth the "tensor veli palatini" is, and what the difference is between "jitter" and "shimmer," we all enjoy being active. This includes anything from belly dancing or yoga class, to a good game of squash, basketball, soccer, or even running half marathons. You will often find at least one SLP student at Hart House's weekly abs, butt and thighs workout, and a highlight of Unit 2 was our class skating trip to Nathan Phillips Square. Interestingly enough, research has shown that a lifestyle including physical activity plays a key role in developing cognitive skills and promoting diversity¹. We also have a high proportion of dancers in our class (nearly 20%) and there is further research which suggests a relationship between dancing and increased levels of creativity, as well as an improved ability to consider multiple perspectives². These are all traits which together help to make us better clinicians as we



Members of the Year One class putting research¹ into action!

bring our diverse backgrounds and perspectives to the field, and actively respect the diversity in our clientele.

Another common interest that many of us share is a love for music, whether singing, playing the guitar, performing in musical theatre productions, or just listening to music. Many of us attended this year's Daffydil production to support our very own star vocalist who represented our class with style. These musical talents and interests are ones that will also serve us well as speech pathologists as a recent study has shown the value of music, song, and dance movement in improving verbal and gestural communications in some patient populations³.

As you can see, the class of 2008 has a wide variety of interests and talents, but in our diversity we have found the things that bring us together. In finding those things, we have found qualities that will make us all better and more accepting clinicians. We can't wait to get started!

¹Bailey, R. (2006). Physical education and sport in schools: A review of benefits and outcomes. *Journal of School Health*, 76 (8), 397-401.

²Deasy, R. J. (2002). Critical links: Learning in the arts and student academic and social development. *Arts Education Partnership*, Washington, D.C.

³Nyström, K. & Olin Lauritzen, S. (2005). Expressive bodies: demented persons' communication in a dance therapy context. *health: An interdisciplinary journal for the social study of health, illness and medicine*, 9(3), 297-317.

The Department of Speech-Language Pathology Alumni Association would like to thank the following donors for their generous contributions this year!

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- Regine Tabor
- Helen A. Toms
- Edna and Stephen Welker
- Gary Wettlaufer
- Audrey and Syd White

Thank you!

The Speech-Language Pathology Alumni Association is constantly striving to improve student life at the Department of Speech-Language Pathology, University of Toronto. The Margaret Stoicheff Bursary is presented to a student in the final year of the clinical M.H.Sc. program who demonstrates financial need to help offset the cost of completing the program. The Paula Square Travel Award is bestowed upon a doctoral student who has had research accepted for presentation at a conference and requires significant travel expenditure to attend. Our goal is to raise a total of \$50,000 for each of these two awards, and we are within \$10,000 - \$15,000 of that goal for each of them now! The Speech-Language Pathology Annual Fund is used, in part, to support the ongoing activities of the Alumni Association. Your help is invaluable in helping us reach our goals. If you wish to participate in improving the student experience you can do so by completing the pledge form below. You can mail or fax the form to the address listed.

You can also give online! Please be sure to select Speech-Language Pathology from the drop-down menu and then type the name of the fund and the fund number listed on the pledge form in this newsletter in the "gift instructions" box to direct your funds accordingly.



<https://www.donations.utoronto.ca/medicine/medicine.aspx>

Yes! I would like to support the Speech-Language Pathology Alumni Association at the University of Toronto.

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WELCOMING A **NEW** FACULTY MEMBER!

By Ian Roth, OTO

Yana Yunusova, U of T's newest SLP faculty member, has lofty ambitions. Based on her path so far, there is no doubt she will exceed them.

Originally from a small town in the north of Russia, Yana is the veritable prototype of academia. After earning a master's degree in linguistics and beginning a Ph.D. in St. Petersburg, Yana immigrated to the US and enrolled in a clinical master's program in speech-language pathology at the University of Wisconsin-Madison. Though always interested in research, assisting Dr. Gary Weismer with the 15-tonne X-Ray Microbeam device only got Yana more excited. So, three months into her clinical fellowship year, she figured out a way to begin her Ph.D. in the same U of W department while still completing her clinical fellowship year. She continued to take advantage of the world's only working X-Ray Microbeam while studying the kinematic, acoustic, and perceptual properties of neurogenic dysarthric speech. Then, just a short post-doctoral fellowship later at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln, she was ready for U of T.

Yana officially assumed her post as an assistant professor in the Graduate Department of Speech-Language Pathology in January 2007. Since then she has been readying her Speech Production Laboratory and preparing to teach her first U of T class in Augmentative

and Alternative Communication to first year students in May 2007. She will also be teaching Motor Speech Disorders to second year students in the fall.

While most of Toronto's inhabitants have been wondering what to do with themselves during the unusual 20 cm of snow and sub-zero temperatures this winter, Yana, who is accustomed to much colder winters in northern Russia, has been making connections with SLPs in her new community. Along the way, this self-described "natural multi-tasker" has not let the weather stop her from taking advantage of the variety of cultural activities this city has to offer. A fan of the theatre and the opera, Yana has been a rapt audience member at more than a few shows. Similarly, her dog Stepan is learning to strike a balance between his studies of canine culture in the park from their apartment's "observation" window to leisurely running back and forth in the apartment.

Seeming very comfortable in her adopted space, it is nearly impossible to tell that Yana has just moved to a new job in a brand new city. Currently, she is eagerly working towards starting up her research in Toronto, essentially building the foundation for a career in her specific area of interest – mapping the disease path among people with ALS. Yana and U of T seem to be an excellent fit. Stepan, I'm sure, would agree.



What's New in **YEAR TWO?**

By Karen Brayshaw Marshall, OT7

The Class of 2007 has been busy with some special projects over the past year. Some students have participated in research with faculty or clinical educators. Sonja Molfenter presented the results of an investigation into second dialect acquisition processes, which she undertook with Sali Tagliamonte of the U of T Department of Linguistics. The study will be published in the November 2007 issue of Language and Society. Erin Yeates, supervised by Dr. Carla Johnson, completed a literature review on the topic of vocabulary intervention for school-aged children. The article was published in the inaugural edition (October 2006) of EBP (Evidence-Based Practice) Briefs. Laurie Graham worked on a project to create a functional outcome measure for preschoolers receiving speech-language services. Alyssa Chote published a brief article on safe feeding and good oral care for the newsletter of a group home organization. CIHR grant awardees Michelle Bayley and Karen Brayshaw-Marshall worked with Dr. Luigi Girolametto and Dr. Rosemary Martin, respectively. Michelle's study looked at early literacy, parent involvement and multiculturalism, while Karen performed a systematic review of the literature to identify available swallowing assessment or screening tools.

Lindsay Taggart, placed at George Jeffrey Children's Centre in Thunder Bay during Unit 7, participated in two Teaching Clinics via videocon-

ferencing as a result of a partnership between the University of Toronto and the new Northern Ontario School of Medicine. It was the first time that an out-of-catchment student was able to liaise with students at the university. The benefits and challenges of using this technology will be the topic of a presentation by Lynn Ellwood at the national CASLPA conference in April.

With just a few short months before we're unleashed onto the allied health world, I conducted a short survey to determine the "hot" topics among my classmates, and the results point to concerns about funding, staffing shortages, high caseloads and the associated burnout risk. Lack of public awareness about the nature and/or need for speech-language pathology services were also commonly cited as concerns, as was the emphasis in hospital settings on acute care (i.e. dysphagia) versus a more comprehensive approach that incorporates patients' speech and language functioning. The Class of 2007 is convinced that continued advocacy, additional public education campaigns, and increased emphasis on therapeutic outcome evaluation are at least part of the solution to these complex issues.

More than any other factor, my classmates have credited their clinical educators, most of whom have played pivotal roles during our "formative" years, with influencing their placement experiences and career decisions. Their influence will no doubt persist as we heed their advice to new

SLP graduates. This includes the following nuggets of wisdom:

- Find that balance between work and life!
- Don't shy away from maternity leave contracts – they are an excellent means to gain a wide range of experiences!
- Make time for paperwork!
- Do not hesitate to ask questions, and use your more experienced peers as resources!
- Expect to keep learning!
- Do not place unrealistic/unreasonable expectations on yourself – soon your employer will do the same!
- It's okay to leave the program feeling that you're not ready – time and experience will take care of things!
- Be confident – you know more than you realize!

It is difficult to believe that this part of our journey is quickly drawing to a close. As we approach the final academic and placement semesters of this intensely rewarding program, we cannot help but reflect on how we've grown both personally and professionally in the past year and a half. I have every confidence that the next phase, that first job, will be even more exciting and fulfilling than we've dared to imagine.

The SLP world is your oyster, Class of 2007. Enjoy!

?? The Secret Lives of SLPs... By Lisa McQueen, 9T9

We SLPs certainly are a diverse bunch! A quick survey of my immediate colleagues finds several dancers, a woodworker, a curling enthusiast, some chefs and a few technology wizards. I'm intrigued by the 'behind the scenes' lives of my fellow SLPs and truly believe that having such varied interests shapes our individual clinical styles.

I hope this will be the first of many articles showcasing the range of interests among SLPs. I am particularly excited to hear how these interests influence our practice! To start it all off, I thought I would share a bit of my own personal hobby, Tarot Cards.

Playing with Tarot is something I've done since my late teens. I've always enjoyed the artwork on the cards and have been surprised by some of the insights I've stumbled upon while reading. Recently, I've discovered that my cards can be useful (albeit unorthodox) therapy tools. Some of my clients with brain injuries have enjoyed using the richly illustrated cards to inspire narratives, question-formation and cause-and-effect sequences.

I would like to offer newsletter readers a mini-Tarot reading, using a question inspired by many a Speech Pathology report. It's always best to ask the cards a meaningful question to get a helpful response. Check your astrology sign to see what advice the cards offer about the following question:

"How can we maximize our communicative effectiveness in the summer of 2007?"

Aries - 5 of Wands

Varied opinions can create arguments or can inspire greatness. Use your sense of fun to keep things playful. You will be amazed at your ability to help your group turn seemingly far-fetched ideas into reality!

Taurus - Queen of Wands

Wow, you are fiery and passionate - that's for sure! This is a time to trust your intuition. You are at the top of your game. Be direct but remember to be compassionate in your interactions with others.

Gemini - King of Cups

Are you holding a grudge? It's time to let it go. You might look to a mentor for some guidance in this situation (perhaps an older gentleman with a kind nature?). It's time to communicate how you feel. In doing so, you'll get something off your chest and be able to move forward.

Cancer - 7 of Wands

You will be expected to give your opinions, but you better be ready to support them! You are likely to encounter some resistance - but hold your ground. Your opinions are valid and deserve to be heard.

Leo - 3 of Discs

It's all about teamwork. Communicating in a cooperative and respectful manner is key at this time. Don't try to be the "leader," just enjoy contributing to the success of your group.

Virgo - The Magician

Preparation is critical to your success this summer. Your communication will be most effective if you know your audience, stay flexible and really believe in yourself. You will be sure to dazzle all you meet!

Libra - 1 of Swords

Have you been procrastinating? The way to get started is to put something



(from right) Lisa McQueen, with students Dana and Gen, decide to forgo the traditional Clinical Placement Evaluation and let the cards decide (...just kidding)

in writing. Maybe it's an idea for a conference or new practice. Whatever it is, once you put pen to paper, you will see your ideas grow into something amazing.

Scorpio - Page of Cups

Step out of your comfort zone a little this summer. You have things to say! Communicate your ideas with the enthusiasm of a child. You may need to take a bit of a risk. Don't be afraid of looking silly!

Sagittarius - 8 of Cups reversed

My, you are a bit of a mope these days. You need to embrace some positive language in order to change your outlook. Start by paying someone a sincere compliment (maybe a team member whose work you admire?)

Capricorn - 8 of Swords reversed

"I'm so busy!" "I have no time to think!" Sound familiar? You have been

taking on too much lately. You need to ask for some assistance. Look around. Help surrounds you. You need only to make the request.

Aquarius - 9 of Swords reversed

Are you feeling some inner turmoil these days? I can hear you ruminating from here! Try taking some time for yourself. Journaling is one way to de-clutter your mind, so is yogic chanting. Find a soothing mantra - repeat often.

Pisces - 8 of Wands reversed

You are so excited by your own brilliance you may burst! To get your ideas across clearly, however, you need to reign in some of that frenetic energy. Focus. You want to communicate as directly as possible. Avoid scattered thoughts.

Please send us a story about YOUR secret life. If it enhances your practice, even better! We would love to feature you in our newsletter next year!

Help! Help! CALL TO ALUMNI WITH MUSICAL TALENTS!

If you play an instrument or sing, the Alumni Association needs YOU!! We will be hosting a musical event at the upcoming 50th Anniversary celebrations in May 2008. If you are interested in becoming involved, please contact Janice at bennej@stjoe.on.ca.

CALL FOR HELP WITH THE ALUMNI ASSOCIATION'S SILENT AUCTION!

Support current and future students in your profession by soliciting one or more articles for the Silent Auction, which will be held as part of the 50th Anniversary celebrations in May 2008! If you have an item you can solicit or provide, or an idea for an auction item, please contact Gail at gailgumprich@gmail.com

Your participation will be greatly appreciated by all!

Alumni of the Year Award 2006: Mary Soucie

Excerpts from Mary Soucie's acceptance speech, given to students, faculty, and others in the SLP community at the Department of Speech-Language Pathology's Awards and Recognition Breakfast on November 14, 2006...

It is said that the praise of one's peers is the most gratifying that one can hear and today I confirm that to be true. I am deeply honoured to be selected by the Alumni Association as Alumna of the Year....

I am fortunate to have had a varied and interesting time as an SLP. I started in 1970 at Mount Sinai and Baycrest Hospitals with last year's honoured alumna, Marlene Stein, who was one of my clinical supervisors. A year later my new husband and I moved to Sudbury where I traveled from Kapuskasing to Manitoulin Island to Sault Ste. Marie with the Ministry of Education, one of only two SLPs so employed. In 1973 we moved to Toronto where I continued with the Ministry for two more years developing skills in consultation that were important for the rest of my career. After ten years of nitty-gritty work in Simcoe County and York Region school boards, I embarked on a career in administration with the York Region Separate School Board. These were seventeen challenging but wonderful years. During this time I had the opportunity to provide student placements. This was a rewarding experience that kept me current and on my toes. It also provided students with first-hand experience of life in a school system. I would encourage my colleagues working in education to consider taking students on placement. The payback is substantial. My love for students with Autism Spectrum Disorders grew during my time at York and I was able to establish one of the first multi-disciplinary autism teams in the province....

During the years I have served as an OSLA board member, a CASLPA board member, a Speech Foundation board member and on a variety of committees. Through involvement in these organizations I have met many excellent people and been involved in the growth of our profession. I strongly urge you to join both the provincial and national associations. These groups are voluntary associations of speech language pathologists dedicated to advancing our profession and the work that we do. If we do not work together on issues that affect us and the people we serve, we will be left on the sidelines when policy decisions are made. When I hear colleagues complain that they don't want to spend the money for membership, I must tell you I feel disappointed. I become con-

cerned when I hear people remark that OSLA or CASLPA doesn't do this and so. These people don't serve on committees. The work of these organizations is done largely by committees of volunteers. Get involved. Make a difference....



Mary Soucie, recipient of the 2006 Alumni of the Year Award

I will close with a funny experience I had recently with one of my students who adores Sponge Bob. On one of my visits to his classroom, he informed me in no uncertain terms that he always won and he always went first when playing games. Classroom staff had reinforced this notion by allowing him to do so. I didn't think it was a great idea. After he won the first game I told the assistant to go first. She really didn't want to because she had experienced the results of crossing this student before. I insisted. He had a major meltdown.... After a few minutes of us ignoring him, he blurted out with extreme annoyance. "On Sponge Bob, when people get old like you they retire!"

He has a point. Am I ready to leave? Not quite yet but when I do I will know that I was very fortunate to have chosen such an exciting and ever-changing career.

"ON THE LAM" CONTEST!

The 50th Anniversary Celebration of the Department of Speech-Language Pathology is coming in May 2008! We do not want our colleagues to miss out! However, we have some people who we just can't seem to track down (see list below). If you can help us find them you just might win the grand prize! A prize will be awarded to the member of the alumni-at-large who helps us track down the greatest number of people and who then attends the 50th Anniversary Event in May 2008! Please call or write with your list identifying missing alumni to:

E-mail: address.update@utoronto.ca Tel: 416-978-8638 or 1-800-463-6048 Web: www.alumni.utoronto.ca/address.asp

**To be eligible to win the prize you must cc your e-mail message to speech.path@utoronto.ca **

Barbara E Brown	1960	Kenneth Paul Albanese	1976	Margaret J Baines (nee Smith)	1985	Stephanie A Gosnell (nee Baldwin)	1993
Kathleen May Sudbury	1961	Karen B Abramson	1976	D Anne Turner	1986	Peter Mokua Gichuru	1993
Sylvia Ethel Topp	1962	Leanne M Dorge	1977	Katharine H Robotham	1986	I. Jill Clements-Baartman	1993
Joan E Fisher (nee Green)	1962	Gabriele S Wunderlich-Croft	1978	Elana F Ripsman	1986	Deanne Brigitte Zeidler	1994
Margaret Mitchell	1963	Evelyn Anne Waggoner (nee Hodkinson)	1978	Kevin B O'Connor	1986	(nee Giesbrecht)	
Joseph Fidele des Roches	1963	Siu-Ling Annie Lo (nee Lai)	1978	Jocelyn A MacNab	1986	Leanne B Twaddle	1994
Barbara L Strobach (nee Ingle)	1964	Dina R Solsberg	1979	Michael B Goldman	1986	Mira Dujmovic	1994
Patricia A Hughes (nee Kime)	1964	John R Scott	1979	Lynn S Crayton (nee Farrell)	1986	Cecelia Cienska (nee Neudoerffer)	1994
Barbara J Dolan (nee Shute)	1965	Jane E MacDonald	1979	Elizabeth R Ciprietti	1986	Monica Anderson	1994
Karen R Davidman (nee Posen)	1966	Pamela S Frydman	1979	Susan L Bernstein (nee Yolles)	1986	Shirley Jean West	1995
Eleanor Ruth Johnston (nee Moul)	1967	Maureen Etkin	1979	Patricia A Sahuri (nee Martin)	1987	Karen MacNeil	1995
Linda Abercrombie (nee Saville)	1967	Brent G Carman	1979	Anna E Kaszkowiak	1987	Wendy E Grieverson	1995
Janice Aloyse Lehman	1969	Susan E Wilson (nee Hill)	1980	Vitra Sabrina Worling (nee Ramdeholl)	1988	Leigh Anne E Roblin	1996
Sharon E Salloum	1970	Linda M Walsh	1980	Timothy W Waring	1988	Sarah E Macumber	1996
Susan J Millar (nee Law)	1970	Ardis Y Shatski (nee Weinbaum)	1980	Maryann Sims	1988	Trisha L Lawless	1996
Inga Lieberman (nee Rosenberg)	1970	Susan E Pelletier	1980	Sonia Novak (nee Reichman)	1988	Sarah Hunter	1996
Sharon L Rollit	1971	Dorota Parafianowicz (nee Musial)	1980	Sandra L Jeson (nee Piasecki)	1988	Suzy Vasconcelos	1997
Mary Ann Peloso	1971	Brenda Murphy-Anderson	1980	Cynthia J Evans-Fallis	1988	Elaine Gribbin	1998
Annette Gloria Levine	1971	Jane M Gillett	1980	Nicola J Warrick	1989	Daina L Debyl	1998
Grace W Hustler	1971	Leslie M Reid (nee Delicaet)	1981	Ellen A Toal	1989	June Marie Campsall (nee Roop)	1998
Denise Goldstein	1971	Nancy M Sarlo	1982	Lori J Schaefer	1989	Megan J Wiigs	1999
Norma I Mooney	1972	Debbie J Roth	1982	Nancy M Neale (nee Mazurek)	1989	Stephanie A Orr	1999
Judith Ellen Hunt (nee McLean)	1972	Ruth E Martin-Adams	1982	Janet C McAuley-Oliver	1989	Kirsten L Hutchison	1999
Barbara J Drewry	1972	Yasmin Shah	1983	Alexandra Gottardo	1989	Christine E Howard	1999
Eleonora J Smelko	1973	Randall Murphy	1983	Vesna F Fernandez (nee Mehesh)	1989	Charlene M Ricketts	2000
Elizabeth A Sauder (nee Goodman)	1973	M Carla Di Domenicantonio	1983	Heidi A Cashin	1989	Catherine Hanish	2000
Joan D Szymberski (nee Hargreaves)	1974	Theresa V Darcel (nee Kramreither)	1983	Alisa L Cantwell	1990	Andrea Weeden	2001
Patricia Sandlos (nee Blair)	1974	Caroline Bolton	1983	Joanne Rubina Winckel (nee Logan)	1991	Kristine Sokolova	2001
Mavis R Retson	1974	Susan M Summerby-Murray	1984	Arlene Faye Sojonyk	1991	Meggan Levson	2001
Theresa Previsich	1974	Anne E Scott	1984	Christine Priscilla Orlowski	1991	Janine Alexander	2001
Charlotte L Owsram	1974	Joan Murray-Wood	1984	Corina Eliane Murphy (nee Bender)	1991	Saima Syed	2002
Linda Mitson	1974	Celia-Marie Lewis	1984	Linda Malette Durepos	1991	Christine Mary Rodier Twigg	2002
Cecily Hewitt	1974	Ellen G Hyman	1984	Janine Anne Langevin	1991	Helen Eleni Papakyriacou	2002
Jennifer Anne Purves	1975	Joanne L Vincent	1985	Nina Lisa Jason	1991	Sheila Margaret Irvine	2002
Bluma D Powell (nee Liberman)	1975	Jerrilyn Platt	1985	Laura Ulrich	1992	Patricia Amanda Frumkin	2003
Isabel C Kent Henderson	1975	Kathryn E McKenzie (nee Armstrong)	1985	Anna Taverniti	1992	Maria Christina de Rivera	2003
Marilyn H Grant	1975	Mary-Kaye McEachen	1985	Kim J Collingwood Fackelman	1992	Gianna Elaine Yan	2004
Connie Woods	1976	Susan D Ham	1985	Heather Skanes	1993	Marilou Theresa Jack	2004
Janet P Hogg	1976	Katherine R Burgess	1985	Kimberly Ann Munro	1993	Heather Dawn Lees	2006

RESEARCH

C O R N E R



genesis of the

VOICE AND RESONANCE LAB

By Janice Waugh Bennett, OT4

Tim Bressmann, Director of the Voice and Resonance Lab of the Department of Speech-Language Pathology at U of T, came to his present areas of research interest because, one day, he sent a job application to the wrong department.

Tim is originally from Hamburg in Northern Germany. He started his post-secondary education a long way from speech-language pathology, studying in literature and political science, in the scenic Black Forest town of Freiburg. He was quickly attracted to neurolinguistics and neuropsychology, and decided to continue his studies with a focus on Clinical Linguistics at the University of Bielefeld, which ultimately included a year as an exchange student at Trinity College in Dublin, Ireland. Tim was among the first graduates of the Clinical Linguistics program in Bielefeld. For his Master's thesis, he designed an experiment that investigated "The comprehension of verbal and non-verbal humour in aphasia and right-hemisphere brain damage."

After graduating in 1995, Tim worked as a Clinical Linguist (i.e., speech-language pathologist) in different centres for neurological rehabilitation in the beautiful Bavarian capital of Munich and was quite content with his life, but when a temporary work contract came to an end he had to make moves to find a new job. He attended a conference, and due to confusing one speaker with another, ended up sending an application intended for one to the other. When he was interviewed he was asked how he had happened to hear that they were thinking of hiring someone with a speech background when they had only discussed it amongst themselves very recently! It was a serendipitous coincidence that changed his career path, and led to his work today.

His new job was at the Department of Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery of the University of Technology in Munich, which was just beginning to undertake a big research project related to treatment outcomes for cleft palate patients. The position had clinical duties as well as a research mandate. He was required to enrol for a Ph.D., which suited him just fine. Under the mentorship of Robert Sader, Phil Hoole and Wolfram Ziegler, he conducted a variety of research projects related to cleft palate, head and neck cancer and dentofacial disorders. In 1998, he received a travel stipend that allowed him to spend three months with Tara Whitehill in the Department of Speech and Hearing Sciences at the University of Hong Kong. His thesis was completed in 1999 and was entitled "Phonetic and psychosocial aspects of cleft lip and palate: Studies concerning nasal resonance, articulation, voice production, and quality of life."

In 2000, Tim applied (intentionally, this time) for a faculty position at the University of Toronto, and has since been teaching courses in Voice and

Structurally Related Disorders, and conducting research in these areas. When asked recently if there was a specific moment or incident that crystallized his research interests, he replied, "Well, I hope that they have not crystallized!" He went on to say that he intends to stay open to the new directions one's interests can take. "Originally, I was very much interested in language and the brain. Today, I spend my days thinking about structurally related disorders, which are just as fascinating. Structure is something we can really understand and often remedy quite successfully, so I think this is a particularly gratifying area of Speech-Language Pathology to work in."

Tim tries to keep the research in the Voice and Resonance Lab clinically focused. A major focus has been the use of 2D and 3D ultrasound imaging for the visualization of tongue shape in function. Specifically, this technol-

ogy is used to assess the impact of partial tongue resection surgery on the speech of tongue cancer patients. As a next step, Tim and his colleagues are planning on devising a new intervention for speech therapy for glossectomy patients. This project will involve a novel dental appliance with tactile "reminder bumps" to facilitate the carry-over of the relearned articulatory gestures from the therapy session to the patient's spontaneous speech. The research will be a collaboration between investigators at the Wharton Head and Neck Cancer Centre at Princess Margaret Hospital, the Faculty of Dentistry, and the Department of Computer Engineering at U of T.

Tim is also interested in the assessment and treatment of resonance disorders. In collaboration with the Department of Communication Disorders at the Hospital for Sick Children, he has carried out research with different instruments for nasalance analysis. He is currently working with colleagues at the Craniofacial Prosthetics Unit at the Sunnybrook Regional Cancer Centre to develop a new palatal lift prosthesis. The goal is to develop a dental appliance that will be more comfortable to wear for the client and easier to fabricate for the prosthodontist.

Current plans include some exciting work overseas. Tim is just back from Southern India where he went as part of the Medical Advisory Committee of Transforming Faces Worldwide. He visited the cleft palate centre and the Department of Speech, Language and Hearing Sciences in Chennai. He also reviewed and provided input for a speech therapy project for cleft lip and palate patients in Tiruvannamalai in rural Tamil Nadu. Next year, his first research sabbatical will involve a project in Germany working with two colleagues from his days at that job he never applied for. A serendipitous beginning, leading to the development of interests that are not yet even nearly crystallized, and intended to be that way...



Dr. Bressmann demonstrates the CHASE head anchor which stabilizes the ultrasound transducer and the head of a research participant for a B-mode ultrasound examination.